

Marin County Transit District to Hold Five Public Meetings on Short Range Transit Plan

MCTD will hold five (5) public meetings this summer on the following dates at the following locations:

- Wed., June 29th, 7:30 p.m., Dance Palace, Pt. Reyes Station
- Wed., July 20th, 7:30 p.m., Manzanita Recreation-Senior Center, Marin City
- Monday, July 25th, 7:00 p.m., Margaret Todd Senior Center, Novato
- Thursday, July 28th, 7:30 p.m., Isabel Cook Community Center, San Anselmo
- Wed., August 3rd, 7:30 p.m., Marin Conservation Corps Hdqtrs, San Rafael

(See below for detailed address information.)

Help Decide the Future of Marin County Transit

The Marin County Transit District (MCTD) was formed by a vote of the people of Marin County in 1964 and was given the responsibility for providing local transit service within Marin County. MCTD currently contracts with Golden Gate Transit and Whistlestop Wheels to provide four different types of service:

- Local fixed route services, which operate throughout the day and stay within Marin County. MCTD will soon be fully responsible for all routes that begin and end in Marin County including current Routes 15, 21, 22, 23, 29, 33, 35, 36, 53, 55, 57, 59, 63, and 71.
- Supplemental school services that provide extra service during school bell times, primarily serving middle and high schools in the County.
- Rural service, which includes the West Marin Stagecoach and Route 63 weekend service.
- Paratransit service, which provides door-to-door demand responsive service to residents of Marin County who are unable to use regular transit services, due to disability.

With the advent of Measure A, the half cent transportation sales tax passed by voters in 2004, and a new contract with Golden Gate Transit, MCTD has more responsibility than ever before to provide an efficient and effective transit service within Marin County. MCTD has embarked on its first Short Range Transit Plan and invites you to learn more about MCTD as we learn more about our riders and the transit needs of residents and employees of Marin County.

To inform the choices that will be made in the Short Range Transit Plan, MCTD collected data from current bus riders and studied the travel demand patterns for all trips made in Marin County, regardless of whether they are currently made on transit.

In addition, the district is working closely with a Citizen's Advisory Committee representing the diverse interests of Marin County.

MCTD has scheduled five public meetings to hear from members of the community interested in improving transit service in Marin County. The meetings will be held throughout the County to reach the maximum number of people. You are welcome to attend any of the meetings scheduled at your convenience:

WEST MARIN - June 29th
Point Reyes Dance Palace
503 "B" Street, Point Reyes Station
www.dancepalace.org
(415) 663-1075

SOUTHERN MARIN – July 20th
Margarita Johnson Senior Center
640 Drake Blvd., Marin City
(415) 332-1441

NORTHERN MARIN – July 25th
Margaret Todd Senior Center
1560 Hill Road, Novato
www.ci.novato.ca.us/seniors
(415) 899-8905

CENTRAL MARIN – July 28th
Isabel Cook Community Center
1000 Sir Francis Drake Blvd., San Anselmo
www.townofsananselmo.org
(415) 258-4640

SAN RAFAEL – August 3rd
Marin Conservation Corps Headquarters
27 Larkspur Street (corner of Kerner & Larkspur), San Rafael
www.marincc.org
(415) 454-4554

Concepts and issues being studied include:

- What is the role of the public transit system in providing specialized school services? How can school services be made more productive?
- Should MCTD's service be focused on maximizing ridership, or should the system provide at least some service to all areas of Marin County?

- Should MCTD's service be focused on areas with high transit dependence, or can "choice riders" be attracted to transit?
- Is there a role for subsidized taxis, shuttles, and other small bus services in Marin County?
- How can the District provide more clean fuel buses in Marin County?

How Can You Get Involved?

There are several ways you can get involved in helping to shape the transit service of the future for Marin County.

- Attend one of the public meetings listed above. Bring your thoughts and ideas for improving local service.
- Visit our website MarinTransit.org where you will find a survey for you to complete and the opportunity to contact Marin County Transit with your thoughts.
- Call Amy Van Doren, Marin's Transit Manager. Her number is 415-499-6099. Remember, MCTD is responsible only for services entirely within the County. If you have a question about Golden Gate Transit services to San Francisco, Alameda or Sonoma Counties, call: 455-2000 or dial 511.
- Get on our electronic mailing list. Send your e-mail address to avandoren@co.marin.ca.us and we'll add you to our list. New fact sheets should be coming out every few months.

When Can We Expect to See Improvements in Our Service?

Many riders and potential riders are anxious to see improvements to existing bus service within Marin County. We look forward to working with you to create a system that is efficient and affordable – one that can be sustained over a long period of time.

This kind of planning takes time. Our Short Range Transit Plan will be completed in the fall of 2005. While there may be minor service revisions this year, major service changes cannot be implemented until early 2006, and will be implemented incrementally over time. We will be working with our partners, Golden Gate Transit and Whistlestop Wheels to identify the optimal mix of services and the best providers for that service as we complete our plan.

The coming months will be challenging and exciting. We invite you to be a part of Marin County's Transit Future.